

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 013262 TOSEC 010040
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:BABS
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
AF:MR. HARROP
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 013262 TOSEC 010040

NODIS
CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER,

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UG

SUBJECT: UGANDAN POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 11833 (TOSEC 10018); (B) STATE 11832
(TOSEC 10017); (C) SECTO 1012

1. SINCE THE DRAFT TELEGRAM TO KINSHASA (REFTEL B) THAT
YOU WERE ASKED TO APPROVE WENT OUT INADVERTENTLY WITHOUT
MY SEEING IT, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME SUGGESTIONS TO YOU
WITH RESPECT TO ANY DIRECT APPROACH TO AMIN. AT A MINIMUM,
IT SEEMS TO ME VITAL TO COMPLETE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTA-
TIONS ON SUCH A CONTACT AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR
POLICY BEFORE APPROACHING AMIN OR ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT(S).

2. UNLESS IT IS VERY DEFTLY HANDLED, ANY DIRECT APPROACH
TO AMIN COULD WELL BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE OR
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CURRY FAVOR WITH THE ONE FOREIGN LEADER WHO IS UNIVERSALLY
DESPISED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.
ANY IMPRESSIONS THAT WE ARE CONTACTING AMIN FOR THE
"WRONG" REASONS COULD IMMEDIATELY GENERATE OVERWHELMING
HILL PRESSURES AGAINST OUR POSITIONS ON THE PEASE BILLS AND
HARRIS CONTRACT. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT AT BEST FOR MOST
AMERICANS TO UNDERSTAND HOW OUR REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH

AMIN IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF DISTANCING THE U.S. FROM HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE "HUMANITARIAN REASONS" FOR A MEETING BETWEEN A U.S. OFFICIAL AND AMIN WILL HAVE TO BE MOST CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC IF THE DIRECT CONTACT IS TO SERVE U.S. INTERESTS.

3. BECAUSE OF THESE CONCERNS, I SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT BEGIN QUIET CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF OUR UGANDA POLICY. DICK MOOSE AND BILL HARROP WOULD APPROACH DIGGS, PEASE, DICK CLARK AND OTHER KEY FIGURES TO COVER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

-- THE ACTIONS THAT WE ARE TAKING AGAINST UGANDA (E.G. DENIAL OF VISAS TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF UGANDANS; PROHIBITION OF MUNITION LIST EXPORTS, REVIEW OF ALL EXPORTS TO UGANDA FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE; REMINDING ALL U.S. FIRMS DEALING WITH UGANDA OF THAT COUNTRY'S EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD; DISCOURAGING ALL AMERICANS FROM TRAVELING TO UGANDA, ACTIVE DISCUSSION OF UGANDA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; INCREASING OUR ASSISTANCE TO UGANDAN REFUGEES);

-- WHY THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES THE PEASE BILL;

-- WHY THE ADMINISTRATION FAVORS ALLOWING THE HARRIS CONTRACT TO BE FULFILLED;

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-- THE POSSIBLE UTILITY OF HAVING A DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND AMIN IN ORDER TO MAKE THE POINTS DESCRIBED IN PARA 5, REFTEL (B), WITH EXCEPTION OF POINT C, WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY DISAPPROVED.

4. AFTER THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO ASSESS THE LIKELY CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC REACTIONS, YOU WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS THE POSSIBLE VALUE AND REPERCUSSIONS OF A DIRECT U.S. APPROACH TO AMIN.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING A CHANNEL TO AMIN THAT WOULD PICK UP AFTER THE HARROP VISIT (IF THAT TAKES PLACE), I WOULD SUGGEST USING AN OFFICER FROM THE BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHO COULD PERIODICALLY VISIT KAMPALA, WHERE HE WOULD BE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY. THIS APPROACH WOULD STRESS THE CONSULAR AND HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF OUR CONTACT WITH THE AMIN REGIME AND OF OUR CONCERN WITH THE U.S. CITIZENS LIVING THERE.

6. IF YOU APPROVE THE PROCESS DESCRIBED ABOVE, I WOULD
ALSO PROPOSE CLEARING WITH THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE POSSI-
BILITY OF A CONTACT WITH AMIN BEFORE WE BEGIN CONSULTA-
TIONS ON THE HILL. CHRISTOPHER

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